

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPC-03 PM-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

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P R 111705Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO USIA WASHINGTON PRIORITY

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UNCLAS TUNIS 5294

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E.O. 11652: N/A

REF: STRATMON/PAYOFF TELECON SEPT 10

UNCLASSIFIED CNO 241309Z AUG 73

UNCLASSIFIED CINCUSNAVEUR R 081314Z SEP 73

UNCLASSIFIED COMSIXTHFLT R 081137Z SEP 73

1. REQUEST AGENCY CONTACT REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM THOMPSON, CHIEF INFORMATION, DEPT NAVY WASH ORDER HELP COVER PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECTS TRANSFER BY US NAVY OF DESTROYER ESCORT RADAR USS T.J. GARY (DER-326) TO TUNISIAN NAVY. TURNOVER CEREMONY SCHEDULED TAKE PLACE TUNIS OCTOBER 22, 1973.

2. POST HAS PROPOSED TO TUNISIAN AUTHORITIES THAT ONE HOUR TV DOCUMENTARY BE PREPARED COVERING EVENT TO BE SHOWN PRIME TIME TV NIGHT OCTOBER 22. TUNISIANS AGREE BUT ADVISE BUDGET LIMITATIONS AND LACK TRAINED CREWS RESTRICT AMOUNT COVERAGE THEY ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE. IN SHORT, THEY ONLY ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE TV COVERAGE OF ACTUAL TURNING OVER CEREMONY IN TUNIS OCTOBER 22.

3. SINCE SHIP SCHEDULED BECOME FLAGSHIP OF TUNISIAN NAVY, PROBABLY WILL BEAR NAME TOP TUNISIAN PERSONALITY EVENTUALLY, AND TURNOVER CEREMONY WILL BE ATTENDED BY HIGHEST TUNISIAN OFFICIALS, BELIEVE THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY HELP INFORM TUNISIANS BY RADIO, TV AND PRESS OF CLOSE USEFUL COOPERATION ONGOING
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BETWEEN GOVTS TUNISIA AND U.S. IN DEFENSE SECTOR.

4. FIRST GROUP OF FIFTEEN OFFICERS AND CREWMEN FROM TUNISIEN
NAVY ASSIGNED TO T.J. GARY SCHEDULED TO LEAVE TUNIS BY AIR
15 SEPT ENROUTE CHARLESTON WHERE SHIP NOW UNDERGOING
RENOVATIONS. SECOND GROUP LEAVING FOR CHARLESTON 25 SEP.

5. HOPE AGENCY CAN ASSIGN VOA WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MOULDI
BERRGAOUI, WHO OF TUNISIAN ORGIN, TO COVER ARRIVAL THESE
TUNISIAN NAVYMEN IN CHARLESTON AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT TRAINING AND
INTERACTION WITH AMERICAN OFFICERS AND MEN ABOARD T.J. GARY.
MAYBE MAYOR AND OTHER OFFICIALS CHARLESTON CAN ALSO BE BROUGHT
INTO PICTURE. NEED 2 16MM BLACK AND WHITE FOOTAGE FOR BOTH
TV AND MOVIE PROJECTION(NAVY PROVIDE) PLUS SHORT FEATURES
FOR USE ON TUNISIAN RADIO (USIA PROVIDE). VOICING IN BOTH
ARABIC AND FRENCH ACCEPTABLE FOR TV AND RADIO. ALSO APPRECIATE
NAVY PRODUCED 8X10 BLACK AND WHITE STILLS FOR USE IN LOCAL PRINTED
MEDIA.

6. UNDERSTAND T J GARY NOW SCHEDULED LEAVE USA OCT 2 ENROUTE
MEDITERRANEAN. IF VOA'S BERRGAOUI UNABLE SAID ABOARD SHIP,
HOPE AGENCY AND NAVY CAN WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR 16 MM TV
FOOTAGE AND B&W STILL COVERAGE THAT PART OF SAGA. WHEREEVER
VOICING OR CAPTIONS IN ARABIC OR FRENCH CANNOT BE ARRANGED,
APPRECIATE SCRIPT OR CAPTIONS IN ENGLISH. IF NAVY PHOTGS UNABLE
COVER TRANSIT CHARLESTON TO TUNIS, REQUEST FOOTAGE AND STILLS FROM
TWO DAYS OF SEA TRIALS OUT OF CHARLESTON. REQUEST FOOTAGE AND
STILLS BE PROCESSED BY NAVY AND AIRMAILED (NOT REPEAT NOT POUCHED)
THIS POST TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN OCT. 12.

7. REGRET SHORT LEAD TIME THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT, BUTLOCAL BAN
ON PUBLICITY LIFTED ONLY YESTERDAY. HOPE AGENCY WILL DO WHEATEVER
NECESSARY HELP POST OBTAIN MAXIMUM GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS FROM THIS
IMPORTANT EVENT. UNDERSTAND FROM EMBASSY/USLOT THAT NAVY READY
PROVIDE FULL COOPERATION.

8. APPRECIATE TELEGRAPHIC RESPONSE WITH PRELIMINARY
ASSESSMENT WHAT SUPPORT POST CAN EXPECT DESITE SHORT LEAD
TIME.

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